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WHITE
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PLLC

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All Michigan State Courts

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COURT OF CLAIMS
JEROME W. ZIEGLER

* Of Counsel

July 25, 2017

VIA HAND DELIVERY

NOTICE OF INTENT TO FILE CLAIM

FIFTH SUPPLEMENTAL NOTICE OF INTENT TO FILE CLAIM

Court of Claims Clerk's Office
Hall of Justice
925 W. Ottawa Street
P.O. Box 30185
Lansing, MI 48909

Michigan State University
Office of the General Counsel
426 Auditorium Road, Room 494
East Lansing, MI 48824

RE: Our Clients:

Lindsey Lemke, Jane C1 Doe, Jane C2 Doe, Jane C3 Doe, Jane C4 Doe, Jane C5 Doe, Jane C6 Doe, Jane C7 Doe, Jane C8 Doe, Jane C9 Doe, Jane C10 Doe, Jane C11 Doe by next friend Jane C12 Doe, Jane C13 Doe, Jane C14 Doe, Jane C15 Doe, Jane C16 Doe, Jane C17 Doe, Jane C18 Doe by next friend Jane C19 Doe, and Jane C20 Doe

Potential Adverse Parties:

Michigan State University,
Lawrence Nassar, D.O.

Potential Claims:

Violations of Title IX; 42 U.S.C. § 1983; Sexual Assault; Sexual Battery; Constructive Fraud; Negligence; Gross Negligence; Negligent Supervision; Negligent Hiring and Retention; Negligence Failure to Warn, Train, or Educate; Vicarious Liability-Agency-Respondeat Superior; Express or Implied Agency; Medical Malpractice
Denhollander, et al. v. Michigan State University, et al., U.S. Dist. Ct., W.D. Mich. Case No. 1:17-cv-00029. All allegations pleaded in this litigation are incorporated by reference.

Pending Litigation:

To Whom It May Concern:

Please be advised the law firm of White Law PLLC represents the individuals listed above. As this case involves claims and allegations of sexual abuse and assault, we feel it prudent to proceed anonymously. Both Sixth Circuit and Michigan law support proceeding anonymously especially considering some of our clients, including those listed above, are minors and many were minors when they were sexually assaulted. This notice is for 19 individuals who were victims of sexual assault by Dr. Lawrence Nassar, an employee of Michigan State University.

This Fifth Supplemental Notice of Intent to File Claim is also intended to supplement the previously filed Notices of Intent filed on:

1. January 17, 2017, Jane Y. Doe (now identified as "Lindsey Lemke") (Court of Claims Case No. 17-200013-O),
2. January 30, 2017, Jane L.B. Doe (now identified as "Jane C1 Doe") (Court of Claims Case No. 17-200025-O),
3. February 3, 2017, Jane A.P. Doe (now identified as "Jane C2 Doe") (Court of Claims Case No. 17-200026-O),
4. February 6, 2017, Jane S.M. Doe (now identified as "Jane C3 Doe") (Court of Claims Case No. 17-200027-O),
5. February 7, 2017, Jane B.M. Doe (now identified as "Jane C4 Doe") (Court of Claims Case No. 17-200028-O),
6. February 8, 2017, Jane L.A. Doe (now identified as "Jane C5 Doe") (Court of Claims Case No. 17-200029-O),
7. February 9, 2017, Jane H.H. Doe (now identified as "Jane C6 Doe") (Court of Claims Case No. 17-200032-O),
8. February 14, 2017, Jane W.N. Doe (now identified as "Jane C7 Doe") (Court of Claims Case No. 17-200041-O),
9. February 14, 2017, Jane H.B. Doe (now identified as "Jane C8 Doe") (Court of Claims Case No. 17-200042-O),
10. February 17, 2017, Jane L.K. Doe (now identified as "Jane C9 Doe") (Court of Claims Case No. 17-200047-O),
11. February 21, 2017, Jane J.S. Doe (now identified as "Jane C10 Doe") (Court of Claims Case No. 17-200050-O),
12. February 21, 2017, Jane R.E. Doe (now identified as "Jane C11 Doe") (Court of Claims Case No. 17-200049-O),
13. February 24, 2017, Jane B.A. Doe (now identified as "Jane C13 Doe") (Court of Claims Case No. 17-200058-O),
14. February 24, 2017, Jane H.T. Doe (now identified as "Jane C14 Doe") (Court of Claims Case No. 17-200057-O),
15. March 10, 2017, (Court of Claims Case No. 17-200080-O),
16. March 17 2017, (Court of Claims Case No. 17-200089-O),
17. June 9, 2017, (Court of Claims Case No. 17-200160-O), and
18. July 24, 2017.

Pursuant to MCL 600.6431(1), please accept this letter as a Notice of Intent to File Claim, which includes a notarized signature of our client's legal representative, Attorney John W. Fraser (P79908) of White Law PLLC.

This Notice serves as our clients' intent to file claims against Michigan State University, Lawrence Nassar, D.O., a former employee/agent/representative of Michigan State University, and any other entity, division, department, representative or agent of MSU involved in the treatment of claimants, investigation of complaints, or involved in the employment aspects of Lawrence Nassar, including but not limited to hiring, retention, supervision, and monitoring.

Our client's potential claims include, but are not limited to the following:

- Violations of Title IX
- 42 U.S.C. §1983
- Sexual Assault
- Sexual Battery
- Constructive Fraud
- Negligence
- Gross Negligence
- Negligent Supervision
- Negligent Hiring and Retention
- Negligent Failure to Warn, Train, or Education
- Vicarious Liability-Agency-Respondeat Superior
- Express or Implied Agency
- Medical Malpractice

The claims arise out of multiple instances of sexual assault and battery, molestation, and harassment of our clients by Dr. Lawrence Nassar, an employee/agent/representative, etc. of Michigan State University from 1996 to as recent as 2016. Specifically, the claims arise out of Dr. Nassar's vaginal and, at times, anal digital penetration of our clients without proper notice, gloves, lubricant, or chaperones under the guise of providing medical care and treatment for a variety of injuries at his office at Michigan State University, and at other locations while working in the capacity of an employee, agent, or representative of MSU. Some of the assaults also included touching of our clients' breasts and genital areas, as well as inappropriate sexual comments. It is our belief Dr. Nassar used his position of trust and confidence in an abusive manner. Criminal charges regarding this conduct are pending in Ingham County, Michigan (30th Circuit Court Case Nos. 17-526-FC and 17-143-FC) and Eaton County, Michigan (56th Circuit Court Case No. 17-20217-FC).


Some of our clients were made aware of Dr. Nassar's conduct on or around September 12, 2016 following publication regarding a recent complaint filed with the Michigan State University Police (see attached article, "Former USA Gymnastics doctor accused of Abuse," originally published September 12, 2016). Others were made aware of Dr. Nassar's conduct through media coverage of state criminal charges filed against Dr. Nassar in mid-September 2016, federal criminal charges filed against Dr. Nassar in mid-December 2016, litigation filed by Tiffany Thomas Lopez, a former MSU student athlete, in California State Court on December 21, 2016 (Case No. BC644417 filed with the Superior California Court of the State of California, County of Los Angeles), and related media coverage following filing of the Original and Amended Complaints in the case captioned *Denhollander, et al. v. Michigan State University, et al.*, United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan, Southern Division, Case No. 1:17-cv-00029. The USDC Complaints (publicly available) provide specific allegations for Our Clients.

Please be advised a case has been filed (*see, supra*) for Our Clients listed above in Notices previously submitted. Our clients have injuries including but not limited to shock, humiliation, emotional

distress and related physical manifestations thereof, psychological injury, embarrassment, loss of self-esteem, disgrace, loss of earnings or earning capacity, and loss of enjoyment of life.

Our office continues to receive contact from other victims of Dr. Nassar's conduct and reserves the right to amend this Notice to include all future clients who engage our firm for representation related to this matter.

Sincerely,


JOHN W. FRASER (P79908)
WHITE LAW PLLC

Subscribed and sworn by Affiant **John W. Fraser** before me this 25th day of July 2017, in Ingham County, State of Michigan.

/s/ 

Printed Name: Blake Lertzman
Notary Public, State of Michigan, County of Ingham

My commission expires OCT 29, 2023
Acting in the County of Ingham

CC: Clients
File



Former USA Gymnastics doctor accused of abuse

Mark Alesia, Marisa Kwiatkowski and Tim Evans, IndyStar Published 3:46 p.m. ET Sept. 12, 2016 | Updated 12:27 p.m. ET Jan. 31, 2017



(Photo: Sean Fujiwara for IndyStar/USAToday)

Editor's note: Since this article published, IndyStar has learned that about 50 people have come forward with allegations of sexual abuse against Dr. Larry Nassar.

Two former gymnasts, one an Olympic medalist, have accused a prominent, longtime team physician for USA Gymnastics of sexual abuse.

One of the women filed a civil lawsuit (<https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/3106054-JANE-JD-COMPLAINT-Signed.html>) Thursday in California that was released Monday. The other filed a complaint two weeks ago with police in Michigan.

The women, in separate interviews with IndyStar, provided detailed accounts that closely mirrored each other as they outlined their allegations against Dr. Larry G. Nassar (<http://sportsmed.msu.edu/pages/Nassar/index.html>). Nassar served as USA Gymnastics' team physician during four Olympic Games and left his position last September with little public notice.



Dr. Larry Nassar, D.O. (Photo: Becky Shink/Lansing State Journal 2008 file photo)

Nassar, a faculty member at Michigan State University who has treated the university's gymnasts, has not been charged with any crime. His lawyer, Matthew Borgula, said Nassar "emphatically" denies any wrongdoing.

After being shown a copy of the lawsuit Monday, Borgula said, "Dr. Nassar, to the extent the allegations are against him, adamantly denies any misconduct at this or any other time."

The women said they were molested during multiple treatments in the 1990s and early 2000s. The two women said the doctor fondled their genitals and breasts. One of them said Nassar also spoke about oral sex and made other inappropriate comments when they were alone, according to court records. The other woman said she told police Nassar was visibly aroused as he examined her during one medical visit.

The Olympic medalist sued Nassar and USA Gymnastics (<https://usagym.org/>) in California, where she lives. The woman, who is unnamed in the suit, alleges that the Indianapolis-based organization failed to act on suspicions about the doctor's conduct. Her attorney would not provide IndyStar with evidence to support that allegation.

"I'm not going to get into the details because, frankly, it would give the defense an unfair advantage," the attorney, John Manly, said.

His client said USA Gymnastics allowed Nassar to examine her alone in private rooms in violation of best practices and the organization's current standards of conduct.

Doctor disputes USA Gymnastics claim

(<http://www.indystar.com/story/news/investigations/2016/09/13/doctor-disputes-usa-gymnastics-claim/90304998/>)

The other woman, who lives in Louisville, Kentucky, filed a police complaint against Nassar last week at Michigan State University. As a teenage gymnast, she was treated there by Nassar, according to medical records.

The university said it suspended Nassar from "clinical and patient duties" Aug. 30, when it received the criminal complaint. He will remain suspended during the investigation. University officials also began an investigation under Title IX of the federal Education Amendments of 1972, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of gender in educational programs.

On Monday, USA Gymnastics reiterated a statement it made last week in response to previous questions about Nassar from IndyStar:

7/25/17, 4:31 PM

"Dr. Nassar is no longer affiliated with USA Gymnastics. Upon learning of athlete concerns, USA Gymnastics immediately notified law enforcement. Since then, we have cooperated fully with the law enforcement agency, including refraining from making further statements or taking any other action that might interfere with the agency's investigation. We are grateful to the athletes for coming forward to share their concerns."

The organization, which serves as the sport's national governing body and selects the Olympic team, would not respond to specific questions about its handling of the allegations against Nassar. But after the story was published on IndyStar.com, USA Gymnastics issued a subsequent statement with more detail.

It said USA Gymnastics received the allegations in the summer of 2015 and "relieved Dr. Nassar of his duties."

In addition to serving as a faculty member at Michigan State's College of Osteopathic Medicine (<http://www.com.msu.edu/>), Nassar is a team physician at Twistars Gymnastics Club (<http://www.twistarsusa.com/>). USA in Michigan and worked as a team physician for Michigan State University and Holt High School. Officials at Michigan State and Twistars said USA Gymnastics did not inform them of the concerns. Nassar resigned from USA Gymnastics last fall but continued to work with young athletes at Michigan State and Twistars.

In August, an IndyStar investigation (</story/news/investigations/2016/08/04/usa-gymnastics-sex-abuse-protected-coaches/85829732/>) revealed that USA Gymnastics executives repeatedly failed to forward allegations of sexual abuse at its member clubs to law enforcement authorities. The organization relied on a policy of not alerting authorities unless allegations came directly from an athlete or an athlete's parent or guardian, according to testimony in court records.

IndyStar is not naming the California woman at her request and because she was identified only as "Jane Doe" in the lawsuit. The other, Rachael Denhollander, said reading IndyStar's investigation inspired her to speak out.

"Over the last 16 years, I've realized I have a responsibility, and the question about whether or not to speak publicly cannot center around what's easy for me," she said. "This isn't something I want to do."

'Damaged goods'

Denhollander filed a criminal complaint against Nassar two weeks ago with Michigan State University Police, alleging the doctor sexually assaulted her when she received treatment for lower back pain as a 15-year-old club-level gymnast in 2000. University officials confirmed that police are conducting a criminal investigation.

She said Nassar gradually became more abusive over five treatments, massaging her genitals, penetrating her vagina and anus with his finger and thumb and unhooking her bra and massaging her breasts. She said she also relayed those details to police.

Nassar's attorney said his client never used a procedure that involved penetration.

Denhollander said her mother was present during Nassar's treatments, but that he positioned himself and her in such a way that only her head and back were visible.

Buy Photo



Rachael Denhollander poses at her home in Louisville, Kentucky, on Aug. 23, 2016. She recently filed a police report in Michigan, alleging that she was sexually abused by Dr. Larry Nassar, formerly the main physician for USA Gymnastics. (Photo: Robert Scheer/IndyStar)

"I was terrified," she recalled. "I was ashamed. I was very embarrassed. And I was very confused, trying to reconcile what was happening with the person he was supposed to be. He's this famous doctor. He's trusted by my friends. He's trusted by these other gymnasts. How could he reach this position in the medical profession, how could he reach this kind of prominence and stature if this is who he is?"

She said she figured the problem must be with her.

"Part of that, I know now, is a very common response that victims have," Denhollander said. "It's much easier in some ways to hide from what's happening and just go somewhere else mentally. It was easier to not have to verbalize and recognize what was happening."

Years later, while Denhollander and her husband, Jacob, were dating and contemplating a future together, she nervously told him about the alleged abuse. They were on swings at a playground.

"She was telling it from the perspective of feeling that she was damaged goods, that she was broken, and would I put up with that," Jacob Denhollander said. "To me, that was one of the most heartbreaking things, to hear that had been her experience, and her perspective was, 'I'm dirty because of it. I'm damaged.'"

Rachael Denhollander said she knows that if her case is prosecuted, she might be called to testify publicly in court about deeply personal and sensitive experiences.

"I hate that idea," she said. "I hate it. But if I don't, he can continue."

'Instrumental to the success'

Nassar, 53, has been a high-profile figure in gymnastics for decades. During one of the sport's iconic moments, U.S. Olympic team officials handed over gymnast Kerri Strug to Nassar for medical attention after she performed on the vault with an injured ankle. At the time, it was believed to be the performance necessary to secure the gold medal in the 1996 Olympics.

USA Gymnastics President Steve Penny (https://usagym.org/pages/aboutus/pages/steve_penny.html) once praised Nassar as being "instrumental to the success of USA Gymnastics at many levels, both on and off the field of play." In that 2014 news release (<https://usagym.org/pages/post.html?PostID=14677&prog=h>), Penny added that Nassar's "contributions over the years are immeasurable and will continue to be so."

Nassar is president of the Gymnastics Doctor Autism Foundation (<http://www.gdafoundation.org/>), which helps gymnastics clubs establish programs for special needs children, and his Facebook page is filled with tributes to him.

"He's an extremely professional physician," John Geddert (<http://thegymnasticscoach.com/about-john-geddert-the-gymnastics-coach/>), the 2012 Olympic team head coach and owner of Twistars Gymnastics, told IndyStar. "Very competent and goes above and beyond the call of duty in treating athletes. He's probably one of the most respected gymnastics professionals I've ever had to deal with."

IndyStar was unable to find any other allegations of sexual misconduct against Nassar in civil or criminal court records.

In 2014, he posted on Facebook (<https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/3089890-Nassar-2014-Announcement.html>) that he would continue working with women's artistic gymnastics "for as long as the program feels I can be an asset to them." In June 2015, Nassar wrote a Facebook post (<https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/3089892-Nassar-2015-Announcement.html>) saying he intended to stay on as U.S. Olympic team doctor through the Rio Olympics.

Yet three months later, Nassar was no longer team doctor. Last month, Nassar explained on Facebook (<https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/3089895-Nassar-School-Board-Run.html>) why he wasn't at the Rio Olympics. He said he retired so he could run for a school board position in Holt, Michigan.

"I knew that if I dedicated the time needed to be at the 2016 Rio Olympics, I would not be able to prepare a campaign for the school board," he wrote.

Borgula, his lawyer, said Nassar's retirement had nothing to do with allegations of sexual abuse, but he did acknowledge that USA Gymnastics had informed the doctor of potentially criminal allegations prior to his resignation.

USA Gymnastics would not tell IndyStar which law enforcement agency it reported to. And Borgula said no agency ever contacted Nassar concerning the allegations USA Gymnastics said it forwarded to police.

How many athletes expressed concerns to USA Gymnastics, and when those concerns were received, is unclear. The two athletes who approached IndyStar said they did not report their concerns directly to USA Gymnastics.

The lawsuit was filed in Sacramento County against Nassar, USA Gymnastics and the organization's past three presidents, including Penny. None of the individuals was mentioned by name, but Manly, the attorney, confirmed the identities of the defendants targeted by the suit.

The lawsuit claims USA Gymnastics not only hid complaints about Nassar, it failed to adequately supervise his activities. The lawsuit claims Nassar "would do anal and vaginal examinations of Plaintiff and other gymnasts in the care of (USA Gymnastics) without gloves, a chaperone, and/or any form of lubricant."

The California woman told IndyStar she didn't report the alleged abuse at the time because she didn't know it was wrong. According to the lawsuit, the abuse started when she was 12 or 13 and continued until she was 18.

"It felt like a privilege to be seen by him," she said. "I trusted him."

Her lawsuit said the procedures Nassar performed were "well outside any recognized and/or accepted technique and were done for the Perpetrator's ... own sexual gratification."

Nassar would "fondle and grope Plaintiff's feet, ankles, thighs, buttocks, hips, waist, breasts, arms, shoulders and neck, placing Plaintiff under the impression this inappropriate contact was part of treatment," according to the suit.

The lawsuit also claims Nassar talked to the California gymnast about sex, describing oral sex and telling her that other underage gymnasts were doing it.

The California woman told IndyStar it took her more than a decade to understand what Nassar had done. She never told anyone until July. And she wept as she tried to talk about how it affected her life.

The lawsuit says she "suffered immensely" from anxiety, depression, a lack of trust and "self-medicating behavior."

"It's a lot," she said.

Call IndyStar reporter Mark Alesia at (317) 444-6311. Follow him on Twitter: [@markalesia](https://twitter.com/markalesia) (<https://twitter.com/markalesia>).

Call IndyStar reporter Marisa Kwiatkowski at (317) 444-6135. Follow her on Twitter: [@IndyMarisaK](https://twitter.com/IndyMarisaK) (<https://twitter.com/IndyMarisaK>).

Call IndyStar reporter Tim Evans at (317) 444-6204. Follow him on Twitter: [@starwatchtim](https://twitter.com/starwatchtim) (<https://twitter.com/starwatchtim>).

Share your experiences

IndyStar will continue to investigate this topic. If you have information you would like to share, please email investigations@indystar.com or call (317) 444-6262.

Get help

Anyone who has reason to believe a child is being abused or neglected should immediately call police or the child welfare agency. Survivors of sexual abuse can contact the National Sexual Assault Hotline at (800) 656-4673 or online.rainn.org. For resources or more information on the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network, visit <https://www.rainn.org/> (<https://www.rainn.org/>).

A blind eye to sex abuse: How USA Gymnastics failed to report cases
(<http://www.indystar.com/story/news/investigations/2016/08/04/usa-gymnastics-sex-abuse-protected-coaches/85829732/>)

Ex-gymnast speaks out about her sexual abuse
(<http://www.indystar.com/story/news/investigations/2016/08/26/kid-they-said-wasnt-worth/89339532/>)

Why coaches' hugs make Becca Seaborn cringe
(<http://www.indystar.com/story/news/investigations/2016/08/04/usa-gymnastics-why-coaches-hugs-make-becca-seaborn-criinge/87967164/>)

IndyStar seeks to unseal abuse documents
(<http://www.indystar.com/story/news/investigations/2016/08/04/indystar-seeks-unseal-usa-gymnastics-coach-abuse-documents/87912400/>)

Georgia judge to unseal USA Gymnastics sex abuse records
(<http://www.indystar.com/story/news/investigations/2016/08/29/georgia-judge-consider-indystar-request-records/89531452/>)

How IndyStar investigated USA Gymnastics
(<http://www.indystar.com/story/news/investigations/2016/08/04/usa-gymnastics-sex-abuse-investigation/87907306/>)

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from=global&sessionKey=&autologin=](http://www.indystar.com/topic/out-of-balance/local?from=global&sessionKey=&autologin=))

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